

In response to the Office Action of August 8, 2003, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-24, inclusive, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter new claims 25-33, inclusive, as follows:

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled).

25. (New) A microorganism obtainable by a process comprising the following 5 steps:

i) drawing out the endocellular mass of a suitable microorganism by a hypertonic treatment and separation of the drawn-out endocellular mass and recovery of the empty microorganism having an external membrane;

10 ii) optionally inactivating the microorganism obtained in step i) chemically or physically while leaving the external membrane of the microorganism unaltered; and

iii) intracellular loading of one or more soluble and/or solubilizable substances into the inactivated microorganism obtained in step i) or step ii), is obtained by means of hypo- and/or iso-tonic treatment.

15 26. (New) The microorganism according to Claim 25, wherein the suitable microorganism is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

27. (New) The microorganism according to Claim 25, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, antibacterials, antivirals, antifungals, antiparasitic agents, vaccines, nutritional substances, and mixtures thereof.

28. (New) The microorganism according to Claim 27, wherein said antibiotic is oxytetracycline, and said antibacterial is sodium sulphadimethoxine.

29. (New) The microorganism according to Claim 27, wherein said nutritional substance is selected from the group consisting of sodium quercentin, catechin, 5 isocatechin, aliphatic polyalcohols, polyphenols, flavans, cyanins, resveratrol, and hyperic acid.

30. (New) Food composition comprising the microorganism according to claim 27 as the active principle and suitable for human and animal administration.

31. (New) Food composition according to claim 30 wherein the animal is a 10 fish.

32. (New) Food composition comprising the microorganism according to claim 28 as the active principle and suitable for animal administration.

33. (New) Food composition comprising the microorganism according to claim 29 as the active principle and suitable for human and animal administration.